



REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE
Borough of Barnstaple
FOR THE YEAR 1940

The Castle,

Barnstaple,

August, 1941.

*To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and
Councillors of the Borough of Barnstaple.*

Mr. Mayor, Mrs. Berry and Gentlemen,

*I have the honour to present the
Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary
Administration of the Borough for the year
1940.*

Your obedient Servant,

F. J. H. MARTIN,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

M.O.H., Barnstaple.

INDEX

	Page		Page
Ambulance ...	7	Laboratory Facilities	7
Animals Slaughtered	14	Legal Proceedings ...	21, 22
Births and Birth Rate	4	Meat Inspection ...	13, 14
Bed Bugs ..	10	Meat Condemned	14, 15, 16, 17 18
Clinics ...	7	Milk Samples	19, 20, 21, 22
Complaints ...	10	Notices and Letters	28
Common Lodging Houses	10	Nuisances ...	9
Cowsheds ...	19	Population ...	4
Deaths and Death Rate	4, 5	Produce of Penny Rate	4
Deaths, Causes of ...	31	Professional Nursing	7
Diphtheria Immunisation	6	Petroleum ...	26
Drains and Tests Applied	10	Rateable Value ...	4
Dairies ...	19	Refuse Collection and Disposal ...	11-13
Disinfections ...	22, 23	Sanitary Inspector's Report ...	9-28
Explosives ...	26	Sanitary Operations, List of ..	27
Factories & Workshops	23, 24	Salvage ..	12
Fish Condemned ...	16	Slaughterhouses ...	14
Food and Drugs	20, 21, 22	Swimming Bath ...	8
Food Inspection ..	13, 14	Staff ...	3
Housing ...	25	Tuberculosis ...	29
Infant Mortality ...	5	V.D. Clinic ...	7
Inhabited Houses ...	4	Water Supply ...	10
Infectious Diseases	6, 7, 22, 23, 29, 30		
Inspections, &c. ...	28		

List of Staff

The Staff of the Public Health Department consists of :—

PART-TIME OFFICER :—

F. J. H. MARTIN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer

WHOLE-TIME OFFICERS :

A. E. TUCKER, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. Sanitary Inspector

W. WHITFIELD, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A., A.M.I.P.C.

Additional Sanitary Inspector

MISS M. LEATHLEY, S.R.N., S.C.M. School Nurse

MISS K. WADGE, C.M.B. Midwife

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	2,396
Population	...	...	...	...	15,880
Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	4,493
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£106,715
Produce of Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£417

Vital Statistics.

		Males.	Females.	Total.
LIVE BIRTHS.	Legitimate	119	98	217
	Illegitimate	2	8	10
				<hr/> 227 <hr/>
BIRTH RATE per 1,000 population	...	...	...	14.29
		Males	Females	
STILL BIRTHS.	Legitimate	0	1	} Total 1
	Illegitimate	0	0	
RATE per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	...	...	4.38
DEATHS	Males.	Females.	Total.	
	143	133	276	
DEATH RATE per 1,000	...	...	...	17.38

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal Sepsis	1	8.7
Other Puerperal Causes	1	

The Table appended shows the comparative figures for Barnstaple, and England and Wales.

The Local Death Rate is shown corrected by the Areal Comparability Factor, viz.:—0.82.

Rate per 1,000 population			Death Rate per 1,000 (cor- rected)	Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births	
	Live Births	Still Births		Deaths under 1 year	Deaths from Diarrhœa and Enteritis under 2 years
Barnstaple	14.29	.06	14.25	84	9.3
England and Wales	14.60	.55	14.30	55	4.6

Infant Mortality.

The ordinary birth rates are calculated according to pre-war practice of dealing with transferable births to the areas of the mother's usual residence, but for calculating Infant and Maternal Mortality a secondary assignment has been made corresponding to that adopted for deaths, viz. to the area in which a mother may be temporarily residing as a result of the war.

The Infant Mortality rate therefore is based on 214 births and not 227, which figure is used for the ordinary birth rate.

The following table gives the quinquennial rates from 1914 to 1938 inclusive, and the annual rates for 1939-40 :—

1914—1918	71·90
1919—1923	57·46
1924—1928	68·08
1929—1933	44·19
1934—1938	59·91
1939	37·00
1940	84·11

Deaths of Infants under one year.

			Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	7	10	17
Illegitimate	...	...	1	0	1
					—
					18
					—
Rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	84·11
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births					83·33
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births					100·00
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	...	...	...	...	30
Deaths from Measles (all ages)...	...	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)				...	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)				...	2

The following table gives the number of deaths from various diseases with the comparative figures for the previous five years and the five-yearly average for the sake of comparison.

Year.	Influenza.	Pneumonia.	Cancer.	Tuberculosis.
1935	1	5	23	8
1936	2	7	25	17
1937	20	12	21	9
1938	5	7	23	8
1939	6	7	37	5
Average	6.8	7.6	25.8	9.4

1940	5	15	30	9
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The following table gives the number of cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Typhoid Fever compared with previous years :—

		Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Typhoid Fever.
1935	...	11	2	1
1936	...	2	0	1*
1937	...	20	9	1*
1938	...	20	15	1*
1939	...	6	40	0
1940	...	19	77	2

* These cases were contracted outside the district.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis.

The immunisation of children was commenced in December 1939 and continued during 1940. The number fully immunised was 690—69 under 5 years of age, and 621 over 5 years but under 15. 64 children did not complete the full course—6 under 5 years and 58 between 5 years and 15. The reason why these 58 cases between 5 and 15 years were not completed was that they had left school and either went to work or left the district.

Up to April 1940 T.A.M. was used in 3 doses of 1 c.c., 1 c.c. and 1.5 c.c.'s at fortnightly intervals. Since that date A.P.T. has been used in doses of 1 c.c. and 3 c.c. at monthly intervals.

13 cases of Diphtheria notified amongst children had been immunised with T.A.M., 2 of which had not completed the course, and 2 occurred immediately after immunisation. Since using A.P.T. no cases have occurred amongst immunised children.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Staff.

The list of officers is found at the front of this report.

Professional Nursing in the Homes.

No provision is made by the Local Authority. Three district nurses are provided by voluntary organisations.

Infectious Diseases.

There is an Infectious Diseases Joint Isolation Hospital at Bideford, which serves the town as well as other Local Authorities in North Devon.

Arrangements have been made for cases of Acute Poliomyelitis to be treated at the Exeter Isolation Hospital, Whipton.

Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided by the Devon County Council at Exeter and continue to be of greatest service to the Borough and the Medical Profession.

Clinics.

The School Clinic and Welfare Centre continue to do excellent work at their premises at Boutport Street. There is also a Clinic for Evacuated Children in Boutport Street.

The V.D. Clinic.

This is held at the North Devon Infirmary Annex. There is a session held every Friday at 5 p.m. for Females and 6.30 p.m. for Males.

Ambulance Services.

There is a motor ambulance stationed at Bideford for the removal of infectious cases.

The St. John Ambulance Brigade continues to be of great service to the Borough and surrounding district.

Swimming Bath.

There is a Municipal Open-air Swimming Bath situated in Rock Park. It has a modern pressure filtration plant, and the whole of the water in the bath passes through filters every six hours. There is a chlorination plant, and the following sample of water taken shows that it works efficiently :—

June—Probable number coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 c.c.—2

This sample was taken at the end of a day when good use had been made of the bath.

Sanitary Inspector's Report

The Castle,
Barnstaple,
July, 1941.

*To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Barnstaple*

Mr. Mayor, Mrs. Berry and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you this my twentieth Annual Report on the administrative work carried out during the year 1940.

It would appear that every effort which is made to provide office assistance is short lived, as in November Mr. David Richards was brought into the department as a pupil, and within a few months he was obliged to leave to become attached to a department of the R.A.F. The clerical work is again being done by the Sanitary Inspectors.

A considerable increase in the duties with respect to Meat Inspection, Food Administration and Salvage has been brought about by the war, as well as the many other duties which come within the purview of the department. In connection with the inspection of meat, it has been necessary to spend a considerable amount of time outside the customary working hours. Evenings, Saturday afternoons and Sundays have found your Sanitary Inspectors on duty. Mr. Whitfield has again shared in this additional work most willingly. The way in which he co-operates in the work of the department in all its various branches deserves the highest praise. It would be impossible to find a more loyal colleague or devoted officer of the Corporation, and to him I record my appreciation and thanks.

The total number of visits made was 3,487, which is an increase of 900 over 1939. Nuisances were abated and repairs carried out at 155 premises.

62 complaints were received as follows :—

8 Condition of premises	1 Flooding
1 Defective stove	2 Burst water pipes
1 Defective roof	1 Frozen „ „
1 Defective fireplace	1 Pigeons
1 Defective plaster	1 Rats
12 Defective drains	4 Vermin
13 Choked drains	1 Smoke from chimney
2 Defective water closets	1 Smell from stream
4 Defective w.c. cisterns	1 Smell from factory
2 Dampness	2 Smell from drain
2 Accumulation of rubbish	

Each case was investigated, and abatement obtained wherever possible.

The drains of 9 houses were renewed, and repairs carried out in 23 instances. 212 tests were applied.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are still two common lodging houses licensed in accordance with the provisions of the Public Health Act 1936.

Accommodation is provided for 26 persons as follows :—

Malletts Row	Males	14
Belle Meadow	Males	12

Both premises are inspected frequently, and are found to be clean and properly conducted.

Water Supply.

Three samples were taken for bacteriological examination in addition to those taken by the Barnstaple Water Company, and in each case the sample was satisfactory, B. Coli being absent in 100 c.c.

Bed Bugs and other Vermin.

One case was reported from a Council house during the year.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The two S.D. Freighters have been fitted with reconditioned engines during the year, and this should give them more years of service. No. 1 is now 9 years old and No. 2 $5\frac{1}{4}$ years.

During the financial year ended March 1941 the following figures were returned.—

No. of loads collected—	Vehicles		Totals
	No. 1.	No. 2	
House Refuse	464	1254	1718 }
Trade Refuse	555	12	567 }
Miles travelled ...	2478	5715	10193
Gallons of petrol ...	811	1035	1846
Miles per gallon ...	5.5	5.5	

2,582 tons of house refuse were collected, which is an increase of 193 tons on last year.

As the population has varied considerably during the year (townspeople leaving to take up duties in the various fighting services, and the reception of a large number from bombed areas), figures regarding the amount of refuse according to population would serve no useful purpose as it would be impossible to show the true position.

Trade refuse was collected from 193 premises, which is a reduction of 19 on the previous year. The amount was 449 tons, and the sum of £260 was received. This is a decrease of £30 on 1939.

Disposal. The Braunton Road tip was completed about the end of September, and the tipping of refuse in the Rock Park sports ground commenced on 11th October on controlled tipping lines.

The total amount of materials salvaged to the end of the financial year was over 160 tons, valued at £681.

The Grammar School Staff organised the collection of metals, paper, rags and bones by the pupils during August, and over 18 tons were received, and for this a sum of £51 was paid.

Over $9\frac{1}{2}$ cwts of aluminium, valued at £33, were handed over to the Minister of Aircraft Production.

The following table shows the quantities of materials salvaged, together with their value :—

	tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
Paper—Mixed ...	87	18	1	0	360	9	4
Newsprint	2	1	0	0	14	2	1
Books ...	9	17	0	0	56	2	5
Iron ...	31	6	2	0	53	6	0
Tins ...	14	7	1	0	13	5	6
Lead ...		17	2	3	11	2	4
Pewter ...		1	1	3	6	6	0
Copper ...		4	3	19	7	11	7
Brass ...	1	6	3	22	28	5	1
Aluminium ...	1	0	3	10	65	17	10
Zinc ...			3	15		8	10
Textiles } ...	5	0	2	5	40	2	7
Carpet } ...		3	1	8		7	7
Bones ...	4	18	0	25	15	19	5
Bottles ...	1	6	2	1	9	2	4
Records ...			1	0		1	2
	160	11	0	27	£681	10	1

In addition, 51 tons of iron railings, valued £167, were removed at the request of the Council from the Strand, Square, and Park, in the national interest.

Pig swill has been collected in Barnstaple by many pig keepers for a great many years, so that when feeding stuffs became limited and the Ministry of Supply requested local authorities to organise the collection of pig swill, assistance was given to them to intensify their efforts and also to bring all the others into the same method. A circular was sent to each house setting out what foodstuffs should be saved for this purpose, and inviting those not already visited by a pig keeper to inform the Health Department. There was a ready response by the householders, and these were allocated to pig keepers in districts. Collections are made at least twice weekly, and in many cases daily.

From time to time more premises have been included and alterations made through this department, and consequently pig keepers have increased the number of pigs according to the amount of swill collected.

About 1,000 houses, as well as the hotels, public institutions, cafés, etc., are saving pig food. About 500 pigs are being fed on swill, and approximately 40 tons are collected monthly.

£8 was received as rent for the grass at the Braunton Road Tip.

The following figures show that the estimate of £1984 was exceeded by £157.

		Estimate £	Actual £
Refuse Collection	...	1516	1491
„ Disposal	...	468	650

The extraordinary items of expenditure in connection with disposal were :—

			£
Rent of salvage store	...	...	39
Salvage sundries	...	...	41
Fencing—Rock Park	...	...	35

The net income after paying £178 by way of bonus to men (in connection with salvage) was £684.

This was £414 in excess of the estimated figure.

With a realised surplus of £414 and an over expenditure of £157, the year ended with a profit of £257. The Council very wisely decided to place £200 of this amount to the vehicles renewal fund, which now stands at £600.

£38 were paid for holidays against £48 in 1939.

Only two men out of nine were off duty during the year on account of sickness, and £15 paid. It is interesting to record that no time was lost by the men engaged at the refuse tips.

The following are the unit figures :—

	Collection £	Disposal £	Total £
Gross expenditure	1491	650	2141
„ Income ...	260	424	684
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1231	226	1457
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Rate in the £ 3·5 pence

Meat and Food Inspection

1,342 visits of inspection were made to premises where food is prepared or sold for human consumption.

The Ministry of Food commenced the use of the Council's Public Abattoir on 15th January, 1940, and as from that time all home killed meat sold in the district had been inspected at the place of slaughter, the inspection of meat in the butchers' shops became less necessary.

29,274 Food Animals were slaughtered in the Borough during the year as follows :—

	Beasts (excluding cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Public Abattoir (Control)	1749	630	378	20885	3550
Private Slaughterhouses prior to Jan. 15, 1940	23	12	5	1987	55
	<u>1772</u>	<u>642</u>	<u>383</u>	<u>22872</u>	<u>3605</u>

The largest number of animals slaughtered at the Public Abattoir prior to the war was 7,637. The following table gives the comparative figures for the last five years :—

Year	Beasts	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Totals
1936	1094	119	3295	1736	6244
1937	1137	116	2988	2727	6968
1938	1180	125	3663	2541	7509
1939	1086	82	3730	2739	7637
1940	2379	378	20885	3550	27192

15 Licenses were issued to slaughtermen.

The following is a list of the meat, etc., condemned as diseased or otherwise unfit for human consumption, together with the reasons for condemnation :—

Article	No., &c.	Reason for Condemnation
Carcases of Beef	... 43	28 Generalised Tuberculosis 1 Tuberculosis with Johne's Disease 1 Tuberculosis with Emaciation 6 Johne's Disease with Emaciation 3 Emaciation and Dropsy 1 Emaciation and Nephritis 1 Septic Metritis 1 Injury with Emaciation 1 Moribund
Cows Heads	... 59	49 Tuberculosis 7 Actinomycosis 3 Abscess
Fore Quarters of Beef	... 8	7 Tuberculosis 1 Injury
Hind Quarters of Beef	... 6	2 Tuberculosis 3 Injury 1 Bone Taint
Sides of Beef ...	... 2	Tuberculosis
Shoulder of Beef	... 1	Tuberculosis
Beef ...	... 555 lbs. 14 lbs. 68 lbs.	Injury Abscess Bone Taint
Frozen Beef ...	... 59 lbs.	Abscess
Chilled Beef ...	... 123 lbs.	Sodden

Article	No., &c.	Reason for Condemnation
Carcases of Veal ... 3		1 Tuberculosis 1 Joint ill 1 Moribund Injury
Veal ... 48 lbs.		
Carcases of Mutton ... 61		19 Emaciation and Dropsy 23 Inflammatory Condition 1 Septic Pneumonia 2 Septicæmia 6 Dropsy 1 Unsound 1 Uræmia 1 Septic Metritis 1 Pneumonia with Emaciation 6 Moribund
Carcases of Frozen Mutton 42		Black Spot
Hind Quarters of Mutton ... 8		7 Inflammatory Condition 1 Injury
Side of Mutton ... 1		Injury
Mutton ... 503 lbs. 61 lbs. 262 lbs. 42 lbs. 57 lbs.		Injury Inflammatory Condition Pleurisy Decomposition Abscess
Frozen Mutton ... 32 lbs.		Black Spot
Sheep's Heads ... 2		Cœnurus Cerebralis
Carcases of Pork ... 21		1 Tuberculosis 5 General Inflammation 1 Pleurisy and Peritonitis 1 Uræmia 1 Gangrenous 1 Dropsy 8 Swine Fever 2 Jaundice 1 Emaciation 1 Injury 1 Inflammatory Condition
Hind Quarter of Pork ... 2		
Pork ... 167 lbs. 111 lbs. 10 lbs.		Gangrenous Injury Various
Pigs Heads ... 303		Tuberculosis, 4582 lbs.
Offals ... 11037 lbs.		Various
Food in Tins		Decomposition
Ox Tongue 1		
Steak & Kidney 6		"
Ham 20		"
Fruit 48		"
Vegetables 9		"
Fish 16		"
Oranges ... 168 lbs		Rotten
Carrots ... 560 lbs		Frost Bitten
Cod Fillets ... 42 lbs		Decomposition
Herrings ... 106 lbs		"
Eggs ... 30		"

The following table shows the amount of meat condemned and separating Tuberculosis from other diseases and conditions :—

		Tuberculosis	Other Conditions
Beef	...	18267 lbs.	6182 lbs.
Offals	...	5398 „	3184 „
Pork	...	5100 „	2490 „
Offals	...	188 „	701 „
Mutton	...	...	4974 „
Offals	...	...	1638 „
Totals	...	Meat 23367 lbs. Offals 5586 „	Meat 13646 lbs. Offals 5523 „

		tons	cwts.	qrs.
Meat	...	21	9	3
Vegetables and Fruit			5	2
Fish	...		1	1
Other Foods	...		1	3
		21	18	1

All of which was voluntarily surrendered.

The following shows the extent of Tuberculosis found in Bovine Animals :—

			Cows	Heifers	Oxen	Calves
Whole Carcases	...	...	16	6	7	1
Hind Quarters	...	...	2	...	...	...
Fore Quarters	...	...	4	3	...	...
Side	...	...	1	1	..	...
Lungs only	...	...	41	12	11	...
Lungs and liver	...	...	12	4	4	1
Lungs, liver and diaphragm	...	...	2	2	1	...
Lungs, liver, diaphragm and stomach	...	...	1	...	...	...
Lungs and diaphragm	...	...	...	...	1	...
Liver only	...	...	2	2	...	...
Head only	...	...	9	5	7	...
Head and lungs	...	...	8	5	1	...
Head, liver and lungs	...	...	1	2	3	...
Head, liver and kidney	...	...	...	...	1	...
Head, lungs, liver and kidney	..	...	1	1	...	...
Head, lungs and shoulder	...	...	1	...	...	...
Head, lungs, liver and diaphragm	...	...	1	2	1	...
Stomach	...	...	...	...	1	...

The following table gives particulars of offals condemned :—

		Cows	Steers	Heifers	Calves	Pigs	Sheep
Whole Livers	Abscesses	3	6	5	...	1	1
	Fluke	15	2	3	...	...	238
	Cavernous Angioma	48	4	3	...	...	...
	Fatty	6	1	3	1	3	85
	Necrosis	...	...	...	...	8	...
	Cirrhosis	...	...	...	...	1	...
	Parasitic Abscesses	...	...	...	...	...	91
Portions of Livers	Fluke	89	27	36	...	1	30
	Cavernous Angioma	3	1	...	...	...	...
Lungs	Cysts	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Abscesses	...	...	...	...	...	7
	Pleurisy	1	...	...	..	...	...
	Pneumonia	3	1	1	1	201	11
	Parasites	...	...	...	...	...	18
Plucks	Tuberculosis	..	...	...	...	10	...
	Pleurisy	...	...	...	...	3	...
	Various	...	...	...	...	13	14
Kidneys	Nephritis	2	...	...	...	2	...
	Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	3	...	...

The following table shows the number of carcasses inspected and condemned :—

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	1772	642	383	22872	3605
Number inspected	1772	642	383	22078	3605
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole Carcasses Condemned ...	2	11	2	61	20
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	97	179	5	538	307
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	5·6%	29·6%	1·8%	2·7%	9·0%
Tuberculosis only					
Whole Carcasses Condemned ...	13	16	1	...	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	70	84	1	...	313
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	4·7%	15·5%	·5%	...	8·7%

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops.

The following list shows the number of Cowsheds and Dairies within the Borough, together with the number of retailers and wholesale producers of milk.

Retailers who have Cowsheds and Dairies in the Borough	21
Retailers with Dairy only—non producers ...	9
Retailers whose premises are situated outside the Borough	28
Retailers with Dairy within the district and who have Cowsheds outside	3
Retailer without a Dairy—non producer ..	1
Wholesale producers with Cowshed and Dairy ...	2
Wholesale producer with Cowshed outside the district, but with Dairy in the Borough ...	1

178 Inspections were made to the 24 Cowsheds and 36 Dairies situated within the Borough. Limewashing is carried out during the months of May and October, and the premises are found to be maintained in a clean state.

68 samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination at the County Laboratory.

39 samples passed the prescribed test.

The following table gives the results in detail :—

	Town samples	Outside samples
Passed Methylene Blue test ...	15	18
Passed Blue and Coli tests ...	1	5
Failed Methylene Blue test ...	5	18
Failed Blue test, failed Coli ...	5	1

All these samples were taken during the first six months of the year. Owing to increased work in other ways on account of the war, it became impossible to continue sampling.

The milk supply of the town is obtained from 66 different producers as follows :—

Town producers	24
Outside producers retailing in the town ...	31
Outside producers supply local dairymen ...	11

Food and Drugs.

The following table shows the samples taken during the year with the results of their examination :—

Article	Number taken			Results of Examination
	Formal	In-formal	Total	
New Milk ...	33		33	27 genuine, 6 not genuine No. 627 2% deficient in non fatty solids ,, 645 1% added water and 13% deficient in fat ,, 650 1% added water and 7% deficient in fat ,, 658 9% added water ,, 667 38% added water ,, 672 34% added water
„ In course of delivery ...	5		5	3 genuine, 2 not genuine ,, 624 3% deficient in non fatty solids ,, 629 2% deficient in non fatty solids
„ Appeal to cow	8		8	5 genuine, 3 not genuine ,, 630 5% deficient in non fatty solids ,, 631 3% deficient in non fatty solids ,, 632 7% deficient in non fatty solids
Scald Milk ..	5		5	Genuine
Butter ...		1	1	Genuine
Vinegar ...		1	1	Genuine
*Sausages				
Grade A	1		1	Genuine
„ Pork „ A	1		1	Not genuine, only 65% pork
„ „ „ B	1		1	Genuine
„ Beef „ B	2		2	Genuine
Totals	56	2	58	

Samples Nos. 624, 627 and 629.

These were found deficient in non fatty solids by 3%, 2% and 2% respectively, and came from the same farm.

No. 624	showed Fat	3·75%	Non fatty solids	8·24%
" 627	" "	3·45%	" "	8·33%
" 629	" "	4·11%	" "	8·33%

A visit was paid to the farm, and three appeal to cow samples taken, which showed ·5%, 3%, and ·7% deficient in non fatty solids respectively, the analysis being :—

No. 630	Fat	3·71%	Non fatty solids	8·46%
" 631	" "	3·54%	" "	8·26%
" 632	" "	3·48%	" "	8·44%

It was obvious that the milk was being sold in the same state as it was produced, with a slightly low non fatty solid content. It was difficult to account for the deficiencies, but it might have been due to the fact that it was winter time, the cows were housed overnight, and ventilation was not properly controlled.

Samples Nos. 645, 650 and 652.

No. 645 was 13% deficient in fat with 1% added water, showing 2·58% fat and 8·41% non fatty solids.

No 650 was 7% deficient in fat with 1% added water, showing 2·76% fat and 8·41% non fatty solids.

No. 652 was an appeal to cow sample and was genuine, showing 3·32% fat and 8·62% non fatty solids.

The appeal to cow sample proving genuine, legal proceedings were taken, and the dairyman was fined £2 10s. in each case.

Samples 658, 660 and 661.

Sample No. 658 showed 9% added water with an analysis of 3·7% fat and 7·73% non fatty solids. This was followed by two more samples from the same producer retailer, which on examination were found to be genuine :—

(1)	4·1% fat.	9% non fatty solids.
(2)	4·15% "	8·65% " " "

These latter samples proving genuine, legal proceedings were taken, and the dairyman was fined £1 1s. and analyst fee of 10/6.

Samples 667, 672.

Sample No. 667 showed 38% added water with an analysis of 3.98% fat and 5.27% non fatty solids. This was followed by a second sample, No. 672, which contained 34% added water, the analysis being 3.96% fat, 5.61% non fatty solids. A sample in course of delivery to the dairyman was found to be genuine. The dairyman's farm was visited and an appeal to cow sample taken, which showed 3.79% fat and 9.47% non fatty solids. The milks as produced and purchased proving genuine, legal proceedings were taken regarding samples Nos. 667 and 672, and a fine of £3 3s. and 10/6 analyst fee imposed in each case.

The sample of sausages marked * were not exposed as either beef or pork, but on analysis were found to contain mutton.

The sample of pork sausages Grade A which only contained 65% pork should have contained at least 70% pork or its equivalent.

The average analysis of the genuine samples of new milk was 3.95% fat and 8.82% non fatty solids.

The five genuine samples of scald milk contained an average of 1.47% fat and 9.11% solids not fat.

61 samples of milk were analysed by the Sanitary Inspectors.

Infectious Disease and Disinfection.

The following cases of infectious diseases were investigated :—

Diphtheria	Scarlet Fever	Typhoid	Acute Poliomyelitis
77	19	2	1
Sonné Dysentery	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis		
1	2		

The following fumigations were carried out :—

Diphtheria	Scarlet Fever	Typhoid	Tuberculosis	Cancer
71	14	1	8	8
Nursing Homes	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	Scabies	Poliomyelitis	
16	3	17	1	
Verminous	N. Devon Infirmary	Various		
5	10	2		

227 separate lots of bedding were steam disinfected, and the following is a list of the articles :—

Disinfection on behalf of	Mattresses	Pillows & Bolsters	Blankets	Other Articles	Total
Civilian Cases in town	121	219	264	375	979
Military ...	98	61	1294	822	2275
N. Devon Infirmary	17	37	57	33	144
Civilians outside Borough ...	17	15	47	56	135
Evacuation ...	26	84	1994	829	2933
Totals ...	279	416	3656	2115	6466

72 cases of Diphtheria, 10 of Scarlet Fever, 1 Acute Poliomyelitis, 1 Erysipelas, 1 Typhoid, 2 Measles, 5 Meningococcal Meningitis were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

Factory and Workshop Act 1901 and the Factories Act 1937.

1—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3) Verbal	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
Factorles with mechanical power ...	13	2 5	
Factories without mechanical power ...	4		
*Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction, but not including out-workers' premises) ...			
*Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories. Total ...	17	2 5	

2—DEFECTS FOUND

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S. 1) ...	2	2		
Overcrowding (S. 2) ...				
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3) ..				
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4) ...				
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6) ...				
Sanitary Con- veniences (S. 7) { insufficient ...	2	2		
{ unsuitable or defective ...	0	0		
{ not separate for sexes ...	1	1		
Other offences ...	2	2		
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the sections mentioned in the schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937).				
Total ...	7	7		

Housing

Inspection of dwelling houses has been considerably curtailed on account of the war.

The Ministry of Health in a circular to Local Authorities permitted the use of condemned houses after being temporarily repaired to house families from bombed areas, the same to be licensed for periods of six months.

12 such houses have been licensed.

22 Garden Court and 9 Queen Street were vacated, and undertakings given not to permit them to be reoccupied, but the Garden Court house was used again to house evacuees.

9 New Houses were built.

(1)	a	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	31
	b	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...			65
(2).	a.	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932.	...	...		29
	b.	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...			32
(3).		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	0
(4).		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	12

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	8
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No action was taken under statutory powers during the year.

In view of the large number of evacuees received in the town, it was impossible to consider overcrowding.

Petroleum and Explosives Act.

The following store licenses were granted under the Petroleum Act, 1928 :—

Petroleum Spirit	...	...	...	30
Petroleum Spirit and Carbide of Calcium			...	3
Petroleum Spirit, Carbide, and Petroleum Mixtures				2
Petroleum Mixtures	...	...	...	3
Carbide of Calcium	...	...	...	4
				—
		Total	...	42
				—

The quantities stored are as follows :—

Petroleum Spirit	...	208,806 gallons
Carbide of Calcium	...	2,240 lbs.
Petroleum Mixtures	...	185 gallons

The amount of fees received by the Local Authority for the above licenses was £35 5s.

The number of premises registered for the storage of mixed explosives was 10.

A license was granted to store gunpowder and high explosives in a magazine.

**The following is a detailed list of Sanitary Operations
carried out during the year 1940**

New set of house drains laid	...	...	9
Drains repaired	...	...	23
Drains cleared	...	..	30
New interceptors fixed	...	...	11
New inspection chambers built	...	...	34
New fresh air inlets provided	...	...	11
New gullies fixed	...	...	47
New soil pipes fixed	...	...	14
New vent pipes provided	...	...	20
New water closets built	...	...	9
New W.C. pans provided	...	...	101
New flushing cisterns fixed	...	...	38
Flushing cisterns repaired	...	...	3
New scullery troughs provided	...	...	7
New scullery waste pipes fixed	...	...	8
Rooms cleansed	...	...	33
Plaster repaired—internal	...	...	5
" " external	...	...	3
Floors renewed or repaired	...	...	7
Roofs renewed or repaired	...	...	5
New windows fixed	...	...	6
Windows repaired	...	...	1
New sash cords provided	...	..	2
Hand rails provided to staircase	...	...	4
Yards repaired	...	...	3
Dampness remedied	...	...	2
Guttering renewed or repaired	...	...	2
Back parts limewashed	...	...	3
Larders provided	...	...	5
Coppers repaired	...	...	1
Kitchen stoves renewed or repaired	...	...	1
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	2
Overcrowding abated	...	...	7
Dust bins provided	...	...	24
Water supplies brought inside dwellings	...	...	5
Bath rooms provided	...	...	5
Miscellaneous	...	...	26
Smoke and water tests applied to drains	...	...	212
Premises where nuisances abated	...	...	155

Summary of Inspections, &c.

Visits made	...	...	...	3487
Visits to slaughterhouses	...	...	...	1062
Visits to butchers' shops	...	...	...	173
Visits to other food shops	..	..	...	69
Cowsheds inspected	...	...	...	77
Dairies inspected	...	...	...	101
Piggeries inspected	...	...	...	6
Common lodging houses	...	...	...	6
Bakehouses	...	...	...	13
Factories, &c	...	...	...	17
Offensive trade premises	...	...	...	1
Shops inspected under Shops Act	...	...	...	2
Ice Cream premises inspected	...	...	...	10
Food preparing premises inspected	...	...	...	15
Houses inspected (Housing Act)	...	...	...	29
Houses re-visited „ „	...	...	...	3
Houses inspected (Public Health Act)	...	...	...	2
Houses re-visited „ „ „	...	...	...	31
Houses visited re overcrowding	...	...	...	4
Houses visited re T.B. cases	...	...	...	26
Visits to refuse tip	...	..	...	156
Letters written	...	...	265}	348
Letters written re milk samples	...	...	83}	
Preliminary Notices Housing Act	...	...	...	1
„ „ Public Health Act—Housing	...	...	...	10
„ „ „ „ „ Nuisances	...	...	...	47
„ „ Milk and Dairies	...	...	...	4
„ „ Food and Drugs Act	...	...	...	1
„ „ Factory Act	...	...	...	7
Verbal notices	...	...	...	137

I wish to record thanks to each Member of the Council, and particularly to the Chairman and Members of the Health and Housing Committee, and to all the Officials of the Corporation, for the support and consideration afforded to me.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR E. TUCKER.

Tuberculosis.

The two following tables show cases of tuberculosis notified during the year and the deaths from this disease. Sexes are separated. Pulmonary and non-pulmonary are also differentiated.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
1—5			1	
5—10				
10—15				
15—20	1		1	
20—25				
25—35	3	2		
35—45	2	2	2	
45—55		1		
55—65	2			1
65 and over				
Totals	8	5	4	1

3 Cases imported from London.

AGE PERIODS	DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
1—5				
5—10				
10—15				
15—20			o1	
20—25				
25—35		‡1		‡2
35—45	†1			
45—55	†2*	‡1		
55—65		‡1		
65 and over				
Totals	3	3	1	2

† Platelayer & Painter

‡ Household Duties

* Postmaster

o Potter

Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified in 1940 (Excluding Tuberculosis)

AGE GROUPS	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Acute Polio- myelitis	Meningo- coccal	Measles	Whooping Cough	Sonne Dysentery	Typhoid	Admitted to Hospital						Deaths				
													Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Acute Polio- myelitis	Meningo- coccal	Measles	Typhoid	Diphtheria	Pneumonia	Whooping Cough	
Under 1 year				1	1				4	1												4	
1 to 2 years		1			3				26	8				1								1	1
2 to 3 years		1			4			1	22	9				1									
3 to 4 years	1	2			4				31	10	1			1									
4 to 5 years	1	3							46	13				3							1		
5 to 10 years	13	30			1				158	29				7			1						
10 to 15 years	2	15			1			1	26	2			1	13							2	2	
15 to 20 years	1	10			2	2			5					10									
20 to 35 years	1	8	2		3	4	1	5	4			2	1	8		1	4						
35 to 45 years		5	2		2				1					5	1							3	
45 to 65 years		2	2		10									2								5	
65 years & over			4		4																		
TOTAL ...	19	77	10	1	35	6	1	7	323	72	1	2	10	72	1	1	5	2	1	5	15		1
NORTH WARD	7	46	8		14	4		2	140	40		1											
SOUTH WARD	12	31	2	1	21	2	1	5	183	32	1	1											
Evacuees admitted to Hospital													Evacuee Deaths										
Diphtheria ... 21													Pneumonia 1										
Scarlet Fever ... 5													Whooping Cough 1										
Meningococcal Meningitis 1																							
Measles 1																							

Scarlet Fever 1 military case—camp reception centre
Diphtheria 4 Public Assistance Institution
 1 North Devon Infirmary
 1 North Devon Infirmary—outside case
 2 North Devon Infirmary

Typhoid 1 North Devon Infirmary—outside case
Pneumonia 2 North Devon Infirmary

Measles 1 North Devon Infirmary—outside case. 2 North Devon Infirmary
 locals. 3 Cottage Homes.
Ophthalmia Neonatorum Public Assistance Institution
Puerperal Pyrexia 1 N. D. Infirmary. 1 N. D. Infirmary—outside case
Meningococcal Meningitis 4 N.D. infirmary—2 of which outside cases

Causes of Death during the Year 1940

Causes of Death		M.	F.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	0	0
Scarlet Fever	...	0	0
Whooping Cough	...	0	1
Diphtheria	...	5	0
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	3	3
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	1	2
Syphilitic Diseases	...	2	0
Influenza	...	3	2
Measles	...	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	...	0	0
Acute Infectious Encephalitis	...	0	0
Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (Males) and Uterus (Females)	...	2	2
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	2	2
Cancer of Breast	...	0	2
Cancer of all other sites	...	7	13
Diabetes	...	0	0
Inter-cranial Vascular Lesions	...	10	11
Heart Disease	...	29	31
Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	...	11	8
Bronchitis	...	12	9
Pneumonia	...	7	8
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	2	2
Ulceration of Stomach or Duodenum	...	3	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	1	1
Appendicitis	...	3	0
Other Digestive Diseases	...	3	1
Nephritis	...	5	1
Puerperal and Post-abortion Sepsis	...	0	1
Other Maternal Causes	...	0	1
Premature Birth	...	2	3
Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease	...	5	4
Suicide	...	1	1
Road Traffic Accidents	...	0	0
Other Violent Causes	...	6	2
All other Causes	...	18	21
All Causes	...	143	133

